

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1 (Currently Amended): A method for screening a compound for an ability to
2 induce modulate apoptosis comprising:
3 (a) providing a biologically active p53 polypeptide, and a helicase
4 polypeptide, wherein the helicase is selected from the group consisting of XPB and XPD,
5 providing a first cell containing a normal or mutant p53 gene, wherein said first
6 cell is capable of undergoing apoptosis after microinjection of a DNA construct expressing wild
7 type p53;
8 (b) contacting a compound suspected of inducing apoptosis with the
9 polypeptides of step (a)
10 (c) detecting whether or not the compound is capable of inhibiting binding of the
11 p53 polypeptide to the helicase, wherein a compound that inhibits the binding of the p53
12 polypeptide to the helicase is a compound that modulates apoptosis
13 providing a second cell containing at least one of a mutant XPB gene and a
14 mutant XPD gene, wherein said second cell is less capable than said first cell of undergoing
15 apoptosis after microinjection of a DNA construct expressing wild type 53;
16 (e) contacting each of the first cell and the second cell with the compound;
17 (d) detecting whether or not apoptosis of the first cell occurs;
18 (e) detecting whether or not apoptosis of the second cell occurs; and
19 (f) comparing the detections of steps (d) and (e), thereby determining
20 whether the compound can induce apoptosis.

2-15. (canceled)

1 16 (New): The method of claim 1, further comprising contacting the
2 polypeptides with a compound that inhibits binding of p53 to XPB or XPD.

1 17 (New): The method of claim 16, wherein the compound that inhibits binding
2 of p53 to XPB or XPD is HBX.

1 18 (New): The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 (d) determining whether the compound suspected of inducing apoptosis can
3 inhibit helicase activity, wherein a compound that inhibits XPB or XPD helicase activity is a
4 compound that modulates apoptosis.

1 19 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the helicase polypeptide is present
2 as part of a TFIIH transcription complex.

1 20 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the p53 polypeptide and the helicase
2 polypeptide are each introduced into a cell.

1 21 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the p53 polypeptide
2 or the helicase polypeptide is a native polypeptide.

1 22 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein the p53 polypeptide is a wild-type
2 p53 polypeptide.

1 23 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein the helicase polypeptide is a mutant
2 helicase polypeptide.

1 24 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein the cell is a member selected from
2 the group consisting of: a fibroblast cell, an epithelial cell, and a hematopoietic cell.